

ETS Programme November 1990 - July 1991

At the last directors' meeting, members acknowledged that given the government's interest in energy conservation, and activities being undertaken by the Friends of the Earth in conjunction with the Hong Kong Institute of Engineers and the Hong Kong Institute of Architects and having regard to the growing pressure on environmental tobacco smoke, it was agreed that a programme of activities would be undertaken in the following six months from November.

The following proposed work plan has been prepared in consultation with Mr. John Rupp during his visit in Hong Kong in end October.

The first two programmes were already provided by the board at the directors' meeting of 1st October, 1990. As a result, Mr. Gray Robertson attended the Tall Building Symposium on 5th - 9th November, 1990 and some publicity was generated (Programme 1). This was followed by Mr. Joe Robertson's presenting a paper at the Sick Building Syndrome Symposium on 4th December with accompanying publicity (Programme 2). The opportunity was taken to renew or build up his contacts with the Australian Trade Commission, those whom he met during his visit in Hong Kong in 1988 for conducting

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the building survey, and the two Institutes.

On the whole, these two programmes met our objectives and may assist other programmes to follow. The rest of the activities are now listed below.

Programme 3 - The release of monitoring study in Hong Kong

This programme was supported by some member companies and subject to agreement of release it is proposed that the best timing for publicising the study results will be between 17th to 23rd March. The alternate date could be between 1st to 17th April. These periods will avoid conflicting with the Friends of the Earth Conference or the Hong Kong government's budget debate.

There is a suggestion that the monitoring study can be released either on its own or at the Friends of the Earth Conference. My recommendation is that without knowing the topics at the Friends of the Earth Conference, and to give us greater flexibility, it would be better that the Hong Kong monitoring study be presented on its own.

One way of doing this is to organize a seminar with speakers from different fields at which the Hong

Kong monitoring study may be presented. This will call for organization work by a third party and the need to secure a local sponsor. Mr. Joe Robertson will be able to help because through Programme 2 he has established contacts with building management, engineers and the academic circle. As regards an overseas sponsor I would prefer Indoor Air International, a learned society of scientists specializing in indoor air issues and not the Asian Occupational Health Association, since the Hong Kong Occupational Safety and Health Association is mainly concerned with safety in manufacturing.

Programme 4 - Expert visits

Anticipating the announcement of the conclusions by the Science Advisory Board on the EPA report on passive smoking in the U.S., it is proposed that Mr. John Rupp would arrange one to two overseas experts to be available in Hong Kong so that they may be able to comment on the issue. Additionally, local consultants will have to be identified.

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Other events which the Institute may have to look at later include:

- 1) The IOCU Conference in June/July. It is intended to consider a course of action when a clearer picture is obtained.
- 2) The ASHRAE meeting in November. Mr. Joe Robertson felt it would be desirable for him to be present. A point of interest is that ANSI, an international accrediting body for ventilation standards declined about month ago to approve new ASHRAE ventilation standards in large part because of the conclusions set forth in the EPA draft documents on ETS. The logical conclusion would be to wait and see developments, however, it is understood that if Mr. Joe Robertson is to make a presentation at that meeting, he will have to notify ASHRAE as soon as possible.
- 3) Symposium on Quality on the Indoor Environment in Asia in November organized by Indoor Air International in Bangkok.

It is suggested that Hong Kong may explore how to take advantage of this meeting because of geographical proximity.

The cost for the programmes are as follows -

Programme 1	US\$4,000.00
Programme 2	US\$25,000.00
Programme 3	H.K. Monitoring Study US\$35,000

Members are requested to comment on these programmes.

December 1990

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